GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1197
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
DE-CLASSIFICATION OF PAST RECORDS OF WARS
Mahajan Smt. Sumitra

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Chief of Army Staff has expressed the need to make public the classified records related to the wars fought against China in 1962 and against Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 for the purposes of study by Armed Forces planners and strategists;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make these records available to army officials for the purpose of chalking out war strategies; and

(c) the number of years after which such records can be made public?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) The then Chief of Army Staff on 27th September, 2007 had expressed the view that the histories of the Conflict with China, 1962 and the Indo-Pak Wars, 1965 and 1971 should be available to military strategists and other stakeholders to draw the right lessons from them.

(b) & (c): A Committee to review the publication of War Histories was constituted by the Government. The Committee has given its recommendations which are being considered for arriving at a final decision on this issue.